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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 298008

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:JMSMITH:MMG
APPROVED BY ARA/APU:JMSMITH, JR.
---------- 091721
R 181651Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298008

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UY, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH WILSON FERREIRA

REF.: MONTEVIDEO 4335

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CATEGORICALLY DENIED FERREIRA'S ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN URUGUAYAN POLITICAL CRISIS OF LAST MAY AND ASKED HIM HOW HE GOT THAT ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION. FERREIRA REPLIED THAT HE LEARNED OF EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT FROM "HIS OWN PEOPLE" IN THE GOU, WHOM HE "NATURALLY" COULD NOT IDENTIFY TO US. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SAID THEY WERE AWARE FROM THE EMBASSY'S REPORTING THAT RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN MONTEVIDEO, BUT REPEATED THAT THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT TRUE.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INFORMED FERREIRA THAT USG ASSISTANCE TO URUGUAY WAS VERY MODEST INDEED. HE REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH DIRECT USG ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE SMALL, THE RECENT GROWTH OF URUGUAY'S EXTERNAL DEBT PROVES THAT PRIVATE LENDERS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT URUGUAY BY THE WELL-KNOWN FAVORABLE ATTITUDE OF THE USG TOWARD URUGUAY. IN THIS
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CONNECTION HE ASKED WHY THE USG WAS GIVING SUCH STRONG

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SUPPORT TO VEGH VILLEGAS. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS NOT SUPPORTING VEGH AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT HAD GIVEN ITS BLESSING TO VEGH'S ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN, WHICH PROMISED TO PULL URUGUAY OUT OF THE ECONOMIC STAGNATION FROM WHICH IT HAS BEEN SUFFERING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

3. MORE DETAILED REPORT ON THE CONVERSATION HAS BEEN AIR POUCHED TO YOU. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE298008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSMITH:MMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-0200
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751230/aaaabanz.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH WILSON FERREIRA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UY, US, (FERREIRA, WILSON)
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006